



# ON POINT *July 2019*

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## **Greetings from the PRNC!**

Point Richmond Music's July 12th free concert was a great success with amazing performances by Dirty Cello [www.dirtycello.com](http://www.dirtycello.com) and Deep Blue Jam [www.deepbluejam.com](http://www.deepbluejam.com). It was a lot of fun! Don't miss the next free concert on Friday August 8th.

July 13th was "Cleanup Day" in the Point and our own Hilary Brown took charge. She organized the volunteers who included Maureen DeCombe, Phil Rosenthal, Jan Lyons, Scott McLean, Jessie West, Kathy Riordan and yours truly. Altogether Republic Services collected several huge dumpsters of trash.

Bruce Beyaert recently brought to my attention the deteriorating condition of the mural, and accompanying overgrowth on the east side (the town side) of the Garrard Blvd tunnel. After close inspection I think that the mural would benefit from a vigorous cleaning, and I've already started by doing some weeding. The next step would be to procure the services of a bucket truck or scaffolding to reach the affected area. Ideas?

The PRBA and PRNC is working hard at preparations for the Point Richmond Fall Fest, scheduled for October 5th on Park Place in the Point. It sounds like it's going to be a great event!

Richmond Ferry service is expanding to include weekend service to San Francisco! The trial run starts on August 3; more info available here: <https://sanfranciscobayferry.com/news/richmond-weekend-ferry-service-2019>.

Save the date! As the restoration of our beloved Wig Wags nears completion, a celebration is being planned for July 28th, 1-5 pm on the lawn outside the Mechanics Bank. See the attached flier for more details.

July 2019 membership report: Currently we have 48 paid members. If you are not sure if you are current or if you would like to pay your dues for the new year, please contact June.

July 2019 PRNC fund balances: We have \$3,745 in the General Fund. We received a generous donation of \$440 this week of which \$400 was earmarked for the Wig Wag Fund. We anticipate having enough money in the Wig Wag Fund to cover all the remaining repairs and to cover the costs of the upcoming celebration. Thank you to all members, past and present, who generously donated to restore our Wig Wags!

PRCERT update: Recently PRCERT acquired 501(c)(3) status, so they are now able to accept tax deductible donations to help pay for emergency supplies. The CERT team is looking for community members to prepare for emergencies; anyone can attend meetings which are generally held on the first Wednesday of the month at Kalidescope at 7pm. If you are interested in learning more, preparing your home for emergencies, or attending one of the monthly meetings, please visit the website at <https://www.prcert.org>.

Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition update: The city consultant is set to start soon on mitigation of the BNSF lights. Thanks to everyone who submitted a survey response for the consultant.

On July 25th the movie at the Red Oak Victory will be the 1941 Leslie Howard film -- "Pimpernel Smith"

Also: Remember, we now have ping pong at Riggers Loft! The new Point Richmond Table Tennis Club has two tables and plays every Sunday from 3:00 to 6:00PM. Every second weekend is a round robin.

I hope to see everyone at the PRNC General Meeting on Wednesday night, July 31st.

***Peter Thelin***

**President**

**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**

\*The PRNC and LUDRC are advisory only capacity, and cannot approve or deny anything beyond "Recommendations for Development" to the City of Richmond. Our role is to mitigate conflict at the local level.

SUNDAY, JULY 28, 2019

COME HELP CELEBRATE OUR  
NEWLY RESTORED

# WIG WAGS!



1 PM TO 5 PM  
BY MECHANICS BANK  
4 W RICHMOND AVE.  
POINT RICHMOND, CA



- MUSIC!
- FOOD!
- LOCAL ARTISTS!
- FAMILY FUN!
- TRAIN ART EXHIBITS!
- FREE ADMISSION!



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Wednesday, July 31, 2019, 7:15pm  
Point Richmond Community Center  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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| 7:15 | <i>Call to order and approval of the minutes from the May 29, 2019 meeting</i>   | <i>2 minutes</i>  |
| 7:17 | <i>Police Report, Richmond Police Department, Officer Joseph DeOran</i>  | <i>5 minutes</i>  |
| 7:22 | <i>EBRPD: update about Miller Knox/BNSF tracks, Carol Johnson</i>  | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 7:32 | <i>President's Report, Peter Thelin</i>  | <i>5 minutes</i>  |
| 7:37 | <i>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</i>   | <i>10 minutes</i> |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Point Richmond Business Association, Scott Harris <a href="http://www.pointrichmondbusiness.com">www.pointrichmondbusiness.com</a></i></li><li>• <i>Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding <a href="http://MagickLantern.org">MagickLantern.org</a>, <a href="mailto:magick-lantern@att.net">magick-lantern@att.net</a>, (510) 232-2559</i></li><li>• <i>Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole <a href="http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com">www.artsofpointrichmond.com</a></i></li><li>• <i>Women's Westside Improvement Club, Diane Diani, <a href="http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/">http://pointrichmond.com/wwic/</a></i></li><li>• <i>Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Margaret Jordan <a href="http://richmondneighbors.org/">http://richmondneighbors.org/</a></i></li></ul> |                   |
| 7:47 | <i>Department of Children and Youth Oversight Board, Leticia Carpenter</i>   | <i>10 minutes</i> |
| 7:57 | <i>Ferry to Bridge to Greenway, Abe Sheppard</i>   | <i>30 minutes</i> |
| 8:27 | <i>Wig Wag Celebration and Updates, Charmain Tyler</i>   | <i>5 minutes</i>  |
| 8:32 | <i>Land Use/Design Review Committee</i>  | <i>15 minutes</i> |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>527 Washington Ave, Matt and Ann Rudie; addition to deck</i></li></ul> <p><i>Items to be considered at the LUDRC meeting must be submitted to Rod Satre, Committee Chair, <a href="mailto:rdsatre@live.com">rdsatre@live.com</a>, (510) 232-5059, at least two weeks prior to the General Membership meeting. <b><u>The LUDRC Committee meets monthly prior to the PRNC General Membership meeting at 6:00pm at the Point Richmond Community Center at 139 Washington Ave. Please plan to attend the LUDRC meeting and General Membership meeting at 7:30pm if your project is being considered.</u></b></i></p>  |                   |
| 8:47 | <i>Community Briefs (2 minutes each)</i>   | <i>10 minutes</i> |
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Jo Cullison, <a href="http://pointrichmondhistory.org/">http://pointrichmondhistory.org/</a></i></li><li>• <i>Richmond Tennis, Garry Hurlbut, (510) 547-8111 <a href="http://www.rta-ca.org">www.rta-ca.org</a></i></li><li>• <i>Masquers Playhouse, Kathe Kiehn, <a href="http://www.masquers.org">www.masquers.org</a></i></li><li>• <i>USS Red Oak Victory Ship, Graham Perrett, (510) 234-1045, <a href="https://redoakvictory.us/">https://redoakvictory.us/</a></i></li><li>• <i>Point Richmond Table Tennis Club, Peter Thelin, (510) 326-8108</i></li></ul>  |                   |
| 8:57 | <i>Public Forum: Please sign up. Maximum 3 speakers (2 minutes each).</i>  | <i>6 minutes</i>  |
|      | <p><i>Issues brought to the attention of the Council in the Public Forum cannot result in Council action at this meeting. Instead, submit issues to Peter Thelin at <a href="mailto:pthelin1@yahoo.com">pthelin1@yahoo.com</a> prior to the next PRNC Board Meeting.</i></p>   |                   |
| 9:03 | <i>In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn</i>  |                   |



**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, May 29, 2019**  
[PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com](mailto:PointRichmondNeighborhood@gmail.com)

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- 1. Called to Order and Approval of Minutes:** Meeting was called to order at 7:32. Board members present: Peter Thelin, Dave Bleckinger, Buzz Baylis, Hilary Brown, June Hight, Charmain Tyler and Garry Hurlbut. Minutes from the previous meeting on April 24 were approved with no amendments.
- 2. Police Report, Officer Joseph DeOran:** ([jdeorian@richmondpd.net](mailto:jdeorian@richmondpd.net)) Crime statistics from April 26th to May 20th are reported as follows: 1 crime property, 3 collisions, 3 basic thefts, 3 auto burglaries, 1 report of identity theft, 4 traffic tickets, 1 stolen motor vehicle, 2 domestic violence complaints, 1 assault with deadly weapon, 1 battery incident. Many of these crimes occurred on the 1300 block of Canal including a vehicle impound and car chase. Basic theft includes anything stolen with a value less than \$900; petty theft is something taken in a public space without a break-in. Q: From 7am - 10am every day there is fencing and cones on Castro to prevent people from circling back to cut through traffic to get to the onramp. Are there any details about that? A: Lt Tan is the dayshift commander and also deals with traffic issues; recommendation is to reach out to him with questions about traffic control. Q: With regards to petty theft, how much is from people following delivery trucks and stealing packages from porches? A: There seems to have been a decrease in this lately. Note that stealing mail is a federal crime, and we have some leads on the mail theft that was occurring at Brickyard. We have a suspect and vehicle description, but so far the suspect has not been apprehended. Q: Can you describe the separation of duties between RPD and EBRPD's police when policing Miller Knox? A: In general the streets are covered by RPD, and the parks themselves are generally covered by parks PD, however they will cover for each other since there is overlap. If we see side shows or crazy driving, we should call RPD.
- 3. President's Report, Peter Thelin:** *Virgin Mountain* played at the Magick Lantern this month, and it was an excellent movie! I highly recommend coming to see the movies here shown by Magick Lantern. The Ping Pong association is starting up at Riggers Loft with organized games planned every other Sunday starting this coming Sunday 6/2 from 3-6pm. Everyone is welcome no matter your skill level. With regards to the BNSF trains in Miller Knox; Buzz and Peter went to the Contra Costa Supervisors meeting and also the Richmond City Council meeting. At both meetings, the councils voted in support of protecting Miller Knox.
- 4. Land Use Design Review Committee; Introduction to new members:** LUDRC - We recently had some longtime LUDRC members retire and move on to other endeavors, so we put out a request for new volunteers, and some people answered the call! We wanted to introduce you to the new members of the LUDRC and reintroduce you to the old! Rod Satre is our longtime chair, Bonnie Satre is a new recruit who frequented land use meetings in the past and after learning from observing was interested in being an active participant. Stephen Parker is a new volunteer; he moved to Point a few years ago and had a new home that was considered by the LUDRC. He thought it was a positive experience and was interested in being involved in the community by serving on the LUDRC. Delphine Prevost has lived in the Point for a few years and previously served on the Rockridge Land Use Committee. Continuing members include Jane Lundin and Don Woodrow who have served on the LUDRC for many years.
- 5. Treasurer's Report, Buzz Baylis:** In the past 30 days PRNC collected \$397 in dues; we currently have \$3706 in our general fund. We paid out some money from the Wig Wag fund and we also contributed to the Map Garden improvements from the Benevolent Fund. Both expenditures were about \$700 from each account.
- 6. Membership Report, June Hight:** This is the first month of our new fiscal year; if you haven't paid your dues please come and see me or Buzz. Now that we started our new fiscal year, we have 40 paid members.
- 7. WIG WAG Celebration and Updates, Charmain Tyler:** Wig wags were invented and popularized when cars became more common at railroad crossings. In the early days, wagons and buggies could hear and avoid

trains, but as cars became more common the noise and complexity of operating early cars was enough of a distraction to early car drivers that car accidents at rail crossings became a problem. Something was needed to let cars know a train was coming. The idea was to have a visual clue (the wig-wagging of the wigwag) and the iconic ding-dinging we still hear at modern crossings were all started at the turn of the century. Now the standard is the arms that drop down, although we still hear the same ding-dinging to alert us to stop. As the current system of arms became standard, wig wags started disappearing. Our wig wags are unusual since there are hardly any left. Our two wig wags here in Point Richmond are being restored by Dan Furtado and the restoration is expected to be completed shortly. The PRNC and the Richmond Museum Association are planning a big celebration for the wig wags. The Point Richmond neighborhood council and the Richmond Museum Association and the History Association are getting together and planning this celebration. The theme of the celebration will be "1914," around when the wig wags were first installed. We plan to have a ragtime piano player, a barbershop quartet, and a dedication. The party will be at the Mechanics Bank in the front lawn. All of our neighborhood groups will be invited to see if anyone wants a table. The railroad museum may have train hats and whistles for sale. The party will be July 28th from 1-5. If you want to be a part of the celebration, please let Charmain know. Q: Who owns the wigwags? A: The PRNC is paying for their restoration, and the History Association may maintain them. A suggestion was made to reach out to BNSF's foundation to see if any grants were available. Q: What is plan to operate wigwags? A: The plan is to only turn them on for celebrations and special events. They cannot be used as an official traffic signal. Landscaping the wig wag planters is coming.

**8. Land Use Design Review Committee:** One project was considered tonight.

- a. 128 Western Drive: The project includes building a new deck, replacing an old deck, and building a small pergola for the patio. In addition, some of the windows are going to be replaced on the lower and upper front of the house and also a fence is going to be replaced. LUDRC voted in favor of his proposal with 6-1 vote in favor of project; the vote in favor of the project included a condition that he build a 4 foot fence instead of a 6 foot fence. A motion was made to approve the project following the recommendation of the LUDRC including the condition about fence height. Motion was passed with unanimous approval of members present. After the motion passed, a question was asked about why the four foot height limitation was made on the fence; the answer was that currently the code only allows for a four foot fence in the front of a house to allow police to jump over the fence if necessary.

**9. Community Briefs**

- a. **TRAC, Joe Puleo:** At the Bay Trail in Point Molate, volunteers from Friends of Point Molate did a trail cleanup and now you can walk all the way to the beach from where the railroad is. If you haven't been out to Point Molate lately, please go and enjoy the beach and scenery!
- b. **Red Oak Victory, Graham Perrett:** The ship is still afloat! We have a busy schedule in June and July. On June 8th from 6-10pm, there is a dinner and swing dance featuring The Silver Bell Jazz Band; cost is \$25 to dance and \$55 for dinner and dancing. On Father's Day, June 16 there is a pancake breakfast for \$12 per plate. Stuff your dad full of pancakes, then ask for money! The summer movie season is in full swing and there are two movies scheduled in June at 6:30pm. June 13th we are playing "Mr Smith Goes to Washington" and June 27th we are playing "They Met in Bombay" with Clark Gable and Rosalind Russel July 11th Casa Blanca.
- c. **Masquers:** the yard sale this year was a great success and the out of town sellers have been much more cooperative about cleaning up after themselves and contributing to Masquers.
- d. **Richmond Tennis Association, Garry Hurlbut:** One of our men's teams won the East Bay Championship and then went on to play Districts in Sacramento, but did not progress. Currently we have three women's teams, two men's teams and some mixed teams. We are also continuing our program of helping youth throughout Richmond to play tennis on courts located near schools. Kids are invited from the schools to come out and learn to play tennis at the courts with help from the teachers, volunteers from RTA and help from the Parks Department. Tot's Tennis is going to start at the end of July on the courts by the Plunge. All of this is to encourage a healthy lifestyle and to get out and have fun!
- e. **Point Richmond History Association, Bonnie Joe Cullison:** Our annual meeting is coming up this Sunday, June 2 at 2:00 in Community Center. All are welcome, it is not necessary to be a member to attend. Tom Butt will give a presentation about the lost secrets of Point San Pablo Peninsula and Wine Haven.
- f. **Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Margaret Jordan:** Recently the Santa Fe Neighborhood Council opposed a development project in their neighborhood and members spoke to the City Council

about the importance of neighborhood councils and the wishes of that neighborhood council. The next RNCC meeting is June 10th at 7pm in council chambers.

- g. **Women's West Side Improvement Club, Diane Diani:** Our cycle ends June 4th, so next Tuesday we are taking our summer break. Our next meeting on June 4th will include voting on our open board positions, and attendees are invited to wear fancy hats and bring their favorite salads and desserts. At our last meeting, members voted to oppose the BNSF railroad plan to expand rail use in Miller Knox. We were invited to have a booth at the wig wag celebration and we are planning to do that. The community is invited to help keep our map garden looking nice; gardening dates will be posted on Nextdoor.
- h. **Arts of Point Richmond, Mary Lee Cole:** A lot of wonderful events are going on right now and are planned for the summer! June 24 - September 30th at El Sol Restaurant will display artwork by members of AOPR's Exhibition Committee. May 28-July 22 the Post Office will display art by members participating in the most recent "Art Tag" with the theme of "Conceal / Reveal." July 28 at Little Louie's Restaurant from 2-5pm there will be an afternoon "pop-up" art exhibition and sale. July 28 from 1-5pm in the lawn in front of the Mechanics Bank there will be art featuring old Point Richmond or images related to the trains or wig wags. This event marks the 100th anniversary of the unusual, old railroad crossing signals at the entrance of town.
- i. **Magick Lantern, Kate Spaulding:** Currently we are asking the city to secure inexpensive or no-cost valances to eliminate light from the edge of the shade that we installed. Magick Lantern applied for mini grants from the City of Richmond and was awarded \$2500 which we plan to use to replace our movie screen and anything left over will be used for lecture stipends to hopefully attract more people. Movie licensing is not cheap; typically each movie costs about \$250-\$500. This month's movie is called "Transit" which showed briefly in Berkeley. It's a cross between Casablanca and an Orwellian 1984. The book was published in 1942 about a woman's journey as a French jew trying to escape; the movie director took the novel and put it in present time. There are no nazi uniforms, but there is a fascist regime and a similar feel of hostility towards someone trying to escape. The movie will show on June 21st, at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at <https://www.magicklantern.org/>.
- j. **Richmond Smart Lighting Coalition, June Hight:** We have big news! Many of you have heard our old presentations about the impact of light at night, and who have followed the struggles with getting BNSF to mitigate their horrible lighting. If you are new to this issue and want to learn more about the RSLC, please check out our website: <https://richmondsmartlight.wixsite.com/website>. For some background, we have advocated for responsible use of artificial light at night. BNSF replaced their old lights with the brightest lights available, and they did not do anything to replace their old fixtures including most of the fixtures that are mounted at approximately 45 degrees with directs light well off their property and into streets, neighborhoods and into the night sky. After significant uproar from the community and after going through the Surface Transportation Board, BNSF has agreed to do some mitigation on their lights, but they reached what seemed to be an impasse with the city. BNSF agreed to mitigate the rest of the lights, but wanted assurance from the city that the city would accept their mitigation and take no further steps to complain. The city said they could not agree to their mitigation without it being installed since they are not lighting experts. Finally BNSF agreed to pay for a lighting expert. This brings us to where we are now: BNSF asked us to provide a map of the problematic lights, so we are asking people to complete a survey to tell us where the problematic lights are located so we can pass that information on to BNSF and the city for mitigation. If you have time, please take a few minutes to report problematic lights on our survey so we can provide this information to the city and BNSF: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2GR2SDS>
- k. **Point Richmond Business Association:** There is a meeting tomorrow featuring a talk by Tom Butt about what is happening with the city. Monthly luncheon is at Hotel Mac from 12-1, cost is \$32 if you are not a member.

## 10. Open Forum

- a. **Cordell Hindler:** The May Crime Prevention meeting had 17 people in attendance in addition to the board members. They had pizza and Block Captain Training for neighborhood watches. The next Crime Prevention meeting will be on June 19 at 7pm, the location is still TBD. Suggestions for speakers at future PRNC meetings: Ariel Mercado to give an update about Bart, someone from EBMUD to talk about proposed rate increases going into effect in early July. Council of Industries is having an event on June 19th; location is TBD.

b. **Kathleen Wimer:** I brought lots of Meyer lemons, so please help yourself! You can make lemon squares, lemon almond shortcake, and many more goodies. They are here by the sign-in sheet; please help yourself!

**11. In Remembrance and Celebration/Adjourn:** Monday was Memorial Day, and Garry is a retired airforce pilot and some of his friends did not come back. He would like to remember his friends Jerry Huneycutt and Bill Ericson. Also, please keep Shirley Butt in your thoughts; she had a stroke last Friday and is back home but still recovering.

**12. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm**

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Hilary Brown, PRNC Secretary; "hilarybrownie "at" hotmail.com" (510) 326-5946*

